AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently amended) A method of configuring a local LAPB device ~~in accordance with a remote LAPB device, said method~~ comprising:

      ~~providing a received~~ receiving a frame directed to said local LAPB device from ~~said~~ a remote LAPB device, said local LAPB device capable of being configured as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device;

      determining based upon information contained within said received frame whether said remote LAPB device is a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device;

      ~~when~~ if said received frame information indicates that said remote LAPB device ~~comprises~~ is a data terminal equipment device, configuring said local LAPB device as a data computing equipment device; and

      ~~when~~ if said received frame information indicates that said remote LAPB device ~~comprises~~ is a data computing equipment device, configuring said local LAPB device as a data terminal equipment device.

2.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising monitoring to detect an initiator ~~signal~~ frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation from ~~provided by~~ said remote LAPB device and ~~when~~ if no initiator ~~signal~~ frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation is detected for a given first time period, providing an initiator ~~signal~~ frame for an asynchronous balanced mode to said remote LAPB device.

3.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said monitoring to detect said initiator frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation from said remote LAPB device is performed during a given period of time ~~limit~~.

4.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising providing said given period of time ~~limit~~.

5.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for configuring a local LAPB device ~~in accordance with a remote LAPB device, said apparatus~~ comprising:

        a communication port for receiving a ~~data signal~~ frame originating from ~~said~~ a remote LAPB device and directed to said local LAPB device, said local LAPB device capable of being configured as a data computing equipment device or a data terminal equipment device~~and for providing at least one part of said received data signal~~;

        a memory for storing data identifying at least one of a data computing equipment device and a data terminal equipment device; and

        a processing unit coupled to said communication port and said memory for ~~receiving said at least one part of said received data signal,~~ determining whether said ~~at least one part of said~~ received ~~data signal~~ frame is indicative of said remote LAPB device being one of a data computing equipment device and a data terminal equipment device using said data stored in said memory and providing a configuration signal to said local LAPB device as a function thereof;

        ~~wherein~~ said configuration signal ~~will configure~~ for configuring said local LAPB device as a data computing equipment device in the case where ~~the at least one part of~~ the received ~~data signal~~ frame is indicative of said remote LAPB device being a data terminal equipment device and further ~~wherein~~ said configuration signal ~~will configure~~ for configuring said local LAPB device as a data terminal equipment device in the case where ~~the at least one part of~~ the received ~~data signal~~ frame is indicative of said remote LAPB device being a data computing equipment device.

6.   (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said communication port provides an initiator ~~signal~~ frame for an asynchronous balanced mode of operation to said remote LAPB device in the case where no ~~data signal~~ initiator frame is ~~provided by~~ received from said remote LAPB device for a given period of time.

7.   (Currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said apparatus includes said local LAPB device~~communication port is comprised in said local LAPB device~~.

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8.　　(Currently amended)　The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said <u>apparatus includes said local LAPB device</u>~~communication port is comprised in said local LAPB device~~.

9.　　(Currently amended)　A method of configuring a first <u>LAPB </u>device coupled to a second <u>LAPB </u>device in a network ~~of devices~~, the method comprising:

receiving a first ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> from the second <u>LAPB </u>device<u> directed to the first LAPB device, said first LAPB device capable of being configured as a first type of LAPB device or a second type of LAPB device</u>;

evaluating <u>information contained within </u>the received first ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> to determine if the second device is one of ~~a~~<u>the </u>first type or ~~a~~<u>the </u>second type of <u>LAPB </u>device;

if <u>it is determined that </u>the second device is of the first type<u> of LAPB device</u>, configuring the first device as the second type of <u>LAPB </u>device; and

if <u>it is determined that </u>the second device is of the second type<u> of LAPB device</u>, configuring the first device as the first type of <u>LAPB </u>device.

10.　　(Currently amended)　The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining whether the first ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> is received from the second <u>LAPB </u>device prior to expiration of a first predetermined time period; and

if the first ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> is not received prior to expiration of the first predetermined time period, sending a second ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> to the second <u>LAPB </u>device.

11.　　(Currently amended)　The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining whether a third ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> is received from the second device in response to the second ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> prior to expiration of a second predetermined time period; and

if the third ~~signal~~<u>frame</u> is not received prior to expiration of the second predetermined time period, setting a <u>failure </u>status ~~of the first device~~<u> condition</u>~~to indicate a failure to receive a signal from the second device~~.

12.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein each of the first and second ~~signals~~ frames is an initiator ~~signal~~frame for a first mode of LAPB operation.

13.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein:

the first type of LAPB device is a data terminal equipment device; and

the second type of LAPB device is a data computing equipment device.